

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-14 have been amended.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1-14 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable based on the Choi, et al. patent (US Patent No. 6,285,408) taken in view of the Hayashi, et al. patent (US Patent No. 6,825,948). With respect to applicant's claims, as amended, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims have been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly amended independent claim 1 recites an image processing apparatus comprising: a reception unit adapted to receive at least three encoded image data; a decoding unit adapted to decode one of the encoded image data to generate a main frame; a sub frame generation unit adapted to extract low frequency component from each one of the other encoded image data, and generate sub frames using the low frequency components extracted from the other encoded image data; and an image signal generation unit adapted to generate an image signal including the main frame and the sub frames. Corresponding method claim 8 has been similarly amended.

Such constructions are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. In particular, the Examiner has acknowledged that the Choi, et al. patent fails to teach or suggest the above-described features of applicant's claimed invention. In particular, the Examiner states in the subject Office Action (page 3, lines 6-8), that the Choi, et al. patent "fails to disclose a sub frame generation unit adapted to generate a sub frames using a low frequency component extracted from each of the other encoded image data."

However, the Examiner then cites the Hayashi, et al. patent and argues as follows:

"Hayashi et al discloses a system wherein sub-frames are generated for viewing and reproducing purposes. As seen in Figure 3 a sub frame extracting unit is placed in the system which allows sub frame generation to occur as further described in Column 4 Lines 33+. It is well

known in the art to generate sub frames through using the lowest frequency component is extracted from the main frame. The sub frame generation allows for the system to be able to view multiple inputs . . . through the use of viewing multiple subframes through the display device. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to use an image processing system, as disclosed by Choi et al, and further incorporate a system where sub frame generation is used for extraction of the encoded image, as disclosed by Hayashi et al.”

Applicant disagrees. The Hayashi, et al patent discloses a system in which image data for the frames of a film are extracted and stored in an image data file. The frames can then be retrieved from the image data file and printed by a digital printer. The Hayashi, et al. patent further discloses printing a standard print, an index print and a group print. The group print comprises a large size main frame and sub frames “which are smaller in size than the main frame” (Column 4, line 8) and each of which is “compressed by decimation or the like, to reduce the size of the frame” (Column 4, lines 21-22 and Column 5, lines 7-8).

The Hayashi, et al, patent thus simply teaches the printing of sub frames by retrieving the sub frames from an image data file and reducing the size of the sub frame images by compression using decimation or the like. The patent, therefore, mentions nothing about printing sub frames from encoded data, nor printing sub frames by extracting the low frequency components of such encoded data. In fact, the patent appears to suggest that the printing of sub frames is from already decoded image data by compressing the data.

The Hayashi, et al. patent, like the Choi, et al. patent, thus fails to teach or suggest the features of applicant’s amended claims 1 and 8, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite, in one form or another, “extracting the low frequency component from each one of the encoded image data” and “generating sub frames using the low frequency components extracted from the other encoded image data.” Applicant’s amended claims thus patentably distinguish over the Choi, et al. and Hayashi, et al. patents taken individually or in

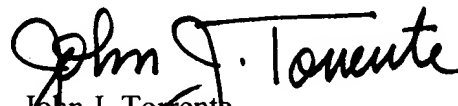
combination.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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